



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 5

February Session, 2002

House Bill No. 5146

House of Representatives, February 22, 2002

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MERGER OF THE PROBATE DISTRICTS OF NEW HARTFORD, BARKHAMSTED AND HARTLAND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 45a-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 8, 2003*):

3 The probate districts of the state, for all purposes for which they
4 were constituted, shall be as follows:

5 (a) Hartford County

6 The district of Hartford, consisting of the town of Hartford.

7 The district of Avon, consisting of the town of Avon.

8 The district of Berlin, consisting of the towns of Berlin and New
9 Britain.

10 The district of Bloomfield, consisting of the town of Bloomfield.

- 11 The district of Bristol, consisting of the town of Bristol.
- 12 The district of Burlington, consisting of the town of Burlington.
- 13 The district of Canton, consisting of the town of Canton.
- 14 The district of East Granby, consisting of the town of East Granby.
- 15 The district of East Hartford, consisting of the town of East
16 Hartford.
- 17 The district of East Windsor, consisting of the towns of East
18 Windsor and South Windsor.
- 19 The district of Enfield, consisting of the town of Enfield.
- 20 The district of Farmington, consisting of the town of Farmington.
- 21 The district of Glastonbury, consisting of the town of Glastonbury.
- 22 The district of Granby, consisting of the town of Granby.
- 23 [The district of Hartland, consisting of the town of Hartland.]
- 24 The district of Manchester, consisting of the town of Manchester.
- 25 The district of Marlborough, consisting of the town of Marlborough.
- 26 The district of Newington, consisting of the towns of Newington,
27 Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.
- 28 The district of Plainville, consisting of the town of Plainville.
- 29 The district of Simsbury, consisting of the town of Simsbury.
- 30 The district of Southington, consisting of the town of Southington.
- 31 The district of Suffield, consisting of the town of Suffield.

32 The district of West Hartford, consisting of the town of West
33 Hartford.

34 The district of Windsor, consisting of the town of Windsor.

35 The district of Windsor Locks, consisting of the town of Windsor
36 Locks.

37 (b) New Haven County

38 The district of New Haven, consisting of the town of New Haven.

39 The district of Bethany, consisting of the town of Bethany.

40 The district of Branford, consisting of the town of Branford.

41 The district of Cheshire, consisting of the towns of Cheshire and
42 Prospect.

43 The district of Derby, consisting of the towns of Derby, Ansonia and
44 Seymour.

45 The district of East Haven, consisting of the town of East Haven.

46 The district of Guilford, consisting of the town of Guilford.

47 The district of Hamden, consisting of the town of Hamden.

48 The district of Madison, consisting of the town of Madison.

49 The district of Meriden, consisting of the town of Meriden.

50 The district of Milford, consisting of the town of Milford.

51 The district of Naugatuck, consisting of the towns of Naugatuck and
52 Beacon Falls.

53 The district of North Branford, consisting of the town of North
54 Branford.

- 55 The district of North Haven, consisting of the town of North Haven.
- 56 The district of Orange, consisting of the town of Orange.
- 57 The district of Oxford, consisting of the town of Oxford.
- 58 The district of Southbury, consisting of the town of Southbury.
- 59 The district of Wallingford, consisting of the town of Wallingford.
- 60 The district of Waterbury, consisting of the towns of Waterbury,
61 Middlebury and Wolcott.
- 62 The district of West Haven, consisting of the town of West Haven.
- 63 The district of Woodbridge, consisting of the town of Woodbridge.
- 64 (c) New London County
- 65 The district of New London, consisting of the towns of New London
66 and Waterford.
- 67 The district of Norwich, consisting of the towns of Norwich,
68 Franklin, Lisbon, Preston, Sprague and Voluntown.
- 69 The district of Bozrah, consisting of the town of Bozrah.
- 70 The district of Colchester, consisting of the town of Colchester.
- 71 The district of East Lyme, consisting of the town of East Lyme.
- 72 The district of Griswold, consisting of the town of Griswold.
- 73 The district of Groton, consisting of the town of Groton.
- 74 The district of Lebanon, consisting of the town of Lebanon.
- 75 The district of Ledyard, consisting of the town of Ledyard.

- 76 The district of Lyme, consisting of the town of Lyme.
- 77 The district of Montville, consisting of the town of Montville.
- 78 The district of North Stonington, consisting of the town of North
79 Stonington.
- 80 The district of Old Lyme, consisting of the town of Old Lyme.
- 81 The district of Salem, consisting of the town of Salem.
- 82 The district of Stonington, consisting of the town of Stonington.
- 83 (d) Fairfield County
- 84 The district of Bridgeport, consisting of the town of Bridgeport.
- 85 The district of Danbury, consisting of the town of Danbury.
- 86 The district of Bethel, consisting of the town of Bethel.
- 87 The district of Brookfield, consisting of the town of Brookfield.
- 88 The district of Darien, consisting of the town of Darien.
- 89 The district of Fairfield, consisting of the town of Fairfield.
- 90 The district of Greenwich, consisting of the town of Greenwich.
- 91 The district of New Canaan, consisting of the town of New Canaan.
- 92 The district of New Fairfield, consisting of the town of New
93 Fairfield.
- 94 The district of Newtown, consisting of the town of Newtown.
- 95 The district of Norwalk, consisting of the towns of Norwalk and
96 Wilton.

- 97 The district of Redding, consisting of the town of Redding.
- 98 The district of Ridgefield, consisting of the town of Ridgefield.
- 99 The district of Shelton, consisting of the town of Shelton.
- 100 The district of Sherman, consisting of the town of Sherman.
- 101 The district of Stamford, consisting of the town of Stamford.
- 102 The district of Stratford, consisting of the town of Stratford.
- 103 The district of Trumbull, consisting of the towns of Trumbull,
104 Easton and Monroe.
- 105 The district of Westport, consisting of the towns of Westport and
106 Weston.
- 107 (e) Windham County
- 108 The district of Windham, consisting of the towns of Windham and
109 Scotland.
- 110 The district of Ashford, consisting of the town of Ashford.
- 111 The district of Brooklyn, consisting of the town of Brooklyn.
- 112 The district of Canterbury, consisting of the town of Canterbury.
- 113 The district of Eastford, consisting of the towns of Eastford and
114 Chaplin.
- 115 The district of Hampton, consisting of the town of Hampton.
- 116 The district of Killingly, consisting of the town of Killingly.
- 117 The district of Plainfield, consisting of the town of Plainfield.
- 118 The district of Pomfret, consisting of the town of Pomfret.

- 119 The district of Putnam, consisting of the town of Putnam.
- 120 The district of Sterling, consisting of the town of Sterling.
- 121 The district of Thompson, consisting of the town of Thompson.
- 122 The district of Woodstock, consisting of the town of Woodstock.
- 123 (f) Litchfield County
- 124 The district of Litchfield, consisting of the towns of Litchfield,
125 Morris and Warren.
- 126 [The district of Barkhamsted, consisting of the town of
127 Barkhamsted.]
- 128 The district of Canaan, consisting of the towns of Canaan and North
129 Canaan.
- 130 The district of Cornwall, consisting of the town of Cornwall.
- 131 The district of Harwinton, consisting of the town of Harwinton.
- 132 The district of Kent, consisting of the town of Kent.
- 133 [The district of New Hartford, consisting of the town of New
134 Hartford.]
- 135 The district of New Milford, consisting of the towns of New Milford
136 and Bridgewater.
- 137 The district of Norfolk, consisting of the town of Norfolk.
- 138 The district of Plymouth, consisting of the town of Plymouth.
- 139 The district of Roxbury, consisting of the town of Roxbury.
- 140 The district of Salisbury, consisting of the town of Salisbury.

- 141 The district of Sharon, consisting of the town of Sharon.
- 142 The district of Thomaston, consisting of the town of Thomaston.
- 143 The district of Torrington, consisting of the towns of Torrington and
144 Goshen.
- 145 The district of Washington, consisting of the town of Washington.
- 146 The district of Watertown, consisting of the town of Watertown.
- 147 The district of Winchester, consisting of the towns of Winchester
148 and Colebrook.
- 149 The district of Woodbury, consisting of the towns of Woodbury and
150 Bethlehem.
- 151 (g) Middlesex County
- 152 The district of Middletown, consisting of the towns of Middletown,
153 Cromwell, Durham and Middlefield.
- 154 The district of Clinton, consisting of the town of Clinton.
- 155 The district of Deep River, consisting of the town of Deep River.
- 156 The district of East Haddam, consisting of the town of East
157 Haddam.
- 158 The district of East Hampton, consisting of the town of East
159 Hampton.
- 160 The district of Essex, consisting of the town of Essex.
- 161 The district of Haddam, consisting of the town of Haddam.
- 162 The district of Killingworth, consisting of the town of Killingworth.
- 163 The district of Old Saybrook, consisting of the town of Old

164 Saybrook.

165 The district of Portland, consisting of the town of Portland.

166 The district of Saybrook, consisting of the town of Chester.

167 The district of Westbrook, consisting of the town of Westbrook.

168 (h) Tolland County

169 The district of Tolland, consisting of the towns of Tolland and
170 Willington.

171 The district of Andover, consisting of the towns of Andover, Bolton
172 and Columbia.

173 The district of Ellington, consisting of the towns of Ellington and
174 Vernon.

175 The district of Hebron, consisting of the town of Hebron.

176 The district of Mansfield, consisting of the towns of Coventry and
177 Mansfield.

178 The district of Stafford, consisting of the towns of Stafford, Somers
179 and Union.

180 (i) Litchfield and Hartford Counties

181 The district of New Hartford, consisting of the towns of New
182 Hartford, Barkhamsted and Hartland.

183 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The towns of New Hartford,
184 Barkhamsted and Hartland shall, on and after the first Wednesday
185 following the first Monday of January, 2003, constitute a probate
186 district by the name of the probate district of New Hartford. In 2002,
187 and quadrennially thereafter, a judge of probate for such district shall
188 be elected at the time and in the manner provided by law for the

189 election of judges of probate. From and after the first Wednesday
190 following the first Monday of January, 2003, the probate court for the
191 district of New Hartford shall have the jurisdiction of all probate
192 business arising in the towns of New Hartford, Barkhamsted and
193 Hartland.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>January 8, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	Current FY \$	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
PCAF* - Savings	Probate Court	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

*PCAF = Probate Court Administration Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill would result in savings to the Probate Court Administration Fund (PCAF). All probate court expenditures are paid for from the PCAF (non-General Fund). There are currently 130 individual probate courts in the state. The bill would reduce the number of courts and consequently, the cost associated with the operation and administration of these courts.

Last year, the probate courts located in Hartland, Barkhamsted, and New Hartford had combined gross receipts of approximately \$50,000. 80% of this amount paid for judges' salaries. 75 of the 130 probate courts had gross receipts greater than \$50,000 (*see table below*).

Probate District	Gross Receipts
New Hartford	\$30,547
Barkhamsted	\$13,753
Hartland	\$8,070

Average Probate Court	\$165,591
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Probate judge salaries are determined by volume and since the volume of all three courts would be transferred to the New Hartford probate district, it is anticipated that the corresponding salary costs would also. The business of these probate courts is handled in their respective town halls and because the volume of these courts is small in comparison to other districts, there are no additional staff expenses.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5146

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MERGER OF THE PROBATE DISTRICTS OF NEW HARTFORD, BARKHAMSTED AND HARTLAND.**SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates the probate districts of Hartland and Barkhamsted. It adds these towns to the probate district of New Hartford, which currently is limited to New Hartford.

The bill requires a probate judge to be elected to serve this district in November 2002 and makes the newly constituted district effective January 8, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the provision eliminating the probate districts of Hartland and Barkhamsted which becomes effective January 8, 2003.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 36 Nay 0